

first year as leader of a democratic, nonracial South Africa.

Today we celebrate the progress that has been made in bettering the lives of African children. But today also stands as a challenge to all of us to continue efforts to improve education and basic health care for all the children of Africa. Their future is the hope for the entire African Continent.●

#### COMMEMORATING THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, today marks the 19th anniversary of the Soweto massacre where more than 100 black South African students—children—were killed while protesting against the tyranny of South African apartheid. These children are martyrs to the cause of freedom and justice. Their sacrifices, along with those of many others, contributed to a far brighter future in South Africa than could have been foreseen at that time. And so, June 16 has been designated by the Organization of African Unity as the "Day of the African Child." On this day, we not only mark the past, but we should also commit ourselves to creating a brighter future for the children of Africa.

Our commemoration of the children of Soweto should be solemn, as we reflect on the loss of far too many African children to conflict and war, to disease, to famine, and to the neglect of a world that often cares more about amassing material wealth than about ensuring the health and well-being of all of its children. An African child deserves no less than any other child born anywhere else in the world. They deserve to be cared for, to be protected, to have adequate food, shelter, and health care, to have safe drinking water, to be educated, and to live in a peaceful world. Yet, a child born in sub-Saharan Africa has a life expectancy 20 years shorter than a child born in an industrialized country. An African child is 8 times less likely to survive infancy and 10 times less likely to survive beyond 5 years old than a child in an industrialized country. The mother of an African child is 29 times more likely to die in childbirth than the mother of a child in the industrialized country. As many as 30 percent of African children suffer from malnutrition. Only 45 percent of Africans have access to safe drinking water.

Thanks to U.S. assistance, there has been progress in reducing the under-5 mortality rate, increasing child immunizations and increasing life expectancy over the last 30 years. But clearly, there is much work to be done. As we commemorate the Day of the African Child let us also recognize the very positive affect that our foreign assistance has on improving the prospects for Africa's children to have healthy, productive lives—to have no less than what we would want for our own children.

The theme of this year's observance is "Children in Armed Conflict." War has a devastating affect on children. Prior to 1945, most of the victims of war were soldiers. In the 160 wars and conflicts since 1945, 80 percent of the dead and wounded have been civilians—most of them women and children. The effect of armed conflict on African women and children has been particularly devastating. Ninety-two percent of the war-related deaths in Africa are women and children. In the Sudanese war, children die at 14 times the rate of government and guerrilla soldiers combined. Most often, in conflict zones children die as a result of the dispersal that leads to malnutrition and disease. Child mortality rates are highest in those countries that are ravaged by armed conflicts. As we observe the Day of the African Child let us also commit ourselves to playing whatever positive role we can through diplomacy, support for U.N. peacekeeping operations, or whatever measures appropriate to help resolve those conflicts that still remain on the African Continent. There has been great progress in ending conflicts on the African Continent over the last decade. Much more has to be done.

I join today with the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Children's Fund and all those who care about the health and well-being of all the world's children in recognizing June 16 as the Day of the African Child. I salute the U.S. Committee for UNICEF for its hard work in organizing today's celebration. Let us resolve to do all that we can to provide hope for Africa's children that they may have the kind of future that each of us wants for our own children.

Mr. President, on the topic of aid to Africa, I would like to share with my colleagues a letter I received from a young lady, Miss Julie Haronik, from Moline, IL. Julie is 13 years old and she wrote to me asking that we maintain the Development Fund for Africa.

I have received many letters supporting foreign aid to Africa over the last month. Julie's letter demonstrated how a child can sometimes be wiser, more caring, and more compassionate than many adults far older than herself. Among Julie's reasons for supporting aid to Africa, she says that, "If you cut off aid some projects in Africa that have been started recently may fall apart without aid [before] they can sustain themselves." In the last paragraph of Julie's letter she writes:

You may wonder why a thirteen year old would be concerned about Africa. One reason is that I want society to be on equal terms with all people when I am an adult. Another reason is that if America ever needed an African resource I would hope Africa would help us in our time of need. I also hope for world peace which can be achieved only through kindness, recognizing fellow humans, and helping those in need.

I am so proud of this young lady both for her world outlook and compassion for others, and for her willingness to write and participate in public debate

on the political issues of the day. Mr. President, I ask that the full text of the letter be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

MOLINE, IL.

Senator PAUL SIMON,  
U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SIMON: Although you may not realize it Africa has come a long way, with outside aid. If you cut off aid some projects in Africa that have been started recently may fall part without aid until they can sustain themselves. Africa still has a way to go, but it is a place of hope. Please don't cut off aid to the Development Fund for Africa!

The United States of America has a duty to itself and the rest of the world. That duty is to help all people whether they can repay debts or not. One tenth of one percent of the budget is not very much money to give to those in need. Africa doesn't just take aid from people it has been its own resources, which are scarce. The government's duty is to make sure Africa does not lose all aid, but develop enough not to need it.

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Sincerely,

JULIE HARONIK.●

#### CIVIC EDUCATION GATHERING IN PRAGUE

● Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, during the first few days of June, one of the largest international gatherings of educators and representatives of the public and private sectors supporting civic education met in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Four hundred and twenty-five representatives from 52 nations participated.

Entitled CIVITAS@PRAGUE.1995, the conference was sponsored by 36 civic education organizations from North America, Western and Eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union.

A declaration was adopted by CIVITAS participants that asserts the essential importance of civic education for developing the support required for the establishment and maintenance of stable democratic institutions. Constitutional democracies must ultimately rely upon citizens and leaders possessing a reasoned commitment to those fundamental values and principles which enable them to flourish. Stable democracies, in turn, are vital for economic development, national security, and for overcoming destructive religious and ethnic conflicts. The declaration also argues that civic education should have a more prominent place in the programs of all governments and international organizations.

American participation in the project was organized by a steering committee composed of representatives of the Center for Civic Education, American